

Linda J. Larkin, OSB No. 792954

larkinl@bennetthartman.com

Talia Y. Guerriero, OSB No. 115271

stoesselt@bennetthartman.com

BENNETT, HARTMAN, MORRIS & KAPLAN, LLP

210 S.W. Morrison Street, Suite 500

Portland, Oregon 97204-3149

Telephone: (503) 227-4600

Facsimile: (503) 248-6800

Of Attorneys for Plaintiffs

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON
PORTLAND DIVISION

JAMES ANDERSON, ROBERT CRANE,
DARREN GLEBE, NATHAN STOKES,
DAVID ALEXANDER, JOHN ANDERSON,
JAMES M. WRIGHT, and KYLE IZATT,
Trustees for the AGC-INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS
LOCAL 701 PENSION, HEALTH AND
WELFARE, AND TRAINING TRUST FUNDS,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

ROSS ISLAND SAND & GRAVEL CO., an
Oregon corporation

Defendant.

Case No. 3:18-cv-1942

COMPLAINT

Suit to Enforce Collective Bargaining
Agreement and Contributions Obligation
under 29 U.S.C. §§185, 1132 and 1145
and for Injunctive Relief

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1.

This action arises under Section 502 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and Section 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act. (29 U.S.C §1132 and 185). This Court has exclusive jurisdiction of this action pursuant to section 301(a) of the Labor Management Relations Act (“LMRA”), 29 U.S.C. § 185(a), for breach of a Collective Bargaining Agreement (“CBA”) between an employer engaged in an industry affecting commerce and a labor organization representing employees in an industry affecting commerce. This Court also has exclusive jurisdiction under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (“ERISA”), Section 502, 29 U.S.C §1132, and Section 515 (29 U.S.C. §1145) because this action is brought by the trustees of an employee benefit plan to enforce the employer’s obligation to make contributions to a multiemployer plan under the terms of the plan and according to the applicable Collective Bargaining Agreement.

2.

Venue is proper in this District insofar as Defendant has expressly consented.

PARTIES

3.

Plaintiffs are Trustees of the AGC-International Union of Operating Engineers Local 701 Health and Welfare, Pension and Training Trust Funds (“Trust Funds”). Said Trust Funds were and are Trusts created pursuant to written collective bargaining agreements which are organized and existing pursuant to section 302 of the LMRA (29 USC §186). Said Trust Funds are also multi-employer “employee benefit plans” for purposes of 29 U.S.C. §1132(d)(1) and §1002, in

that they are established and maintained for the purpose of providing medical, disability, pension, training and other related needs of employees within the purposes of the Trust Fund.

4.

At all times relevant hereto, Defendant was a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Oregon.

5.

Defendant is, and has been, engaged in the construction industry and, as such, has been engaged in an industry affecting commerce, within the meaning of the LMRA, 29 U.S.C. § 152, and within the meaning of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1002.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

6.

Defendant entered into a Master Labor Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 701 (“Local 701”). Defendant also entered into express contractual agreements with the Trust Funds when it submitted its contribution reports stating that it agreed “to be bound by the Trust Agreements creating and controlling the Fringe benefits listed. . . .”

7.

Under the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreements, Defendant agreed to make monetary contributions on behalf of its employees performing work within the jurisdiction of Local 701 to the Trust Funds. Defendant further agreed to be bound by the terms and provisions of the Trust Agreements as amended that governed each of the respective Trust Funds.

///

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

8.

The Trust Agreements, as amended, that govern the respective Trust Funds require Defendant to file monthly reports to the Trust Funds on its employees covered by the Collective Bargaining Agreements setting forth the number of hours worked by Defendant's employees. In addition, Defendant is required to make monthly payments to the Trust Funds based on the number of hours its employees worked in the preceding month at the rate and manner specified in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

9.

Defendant breached the provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Trust Agreements by failing to submit timely and complete payment of the contributions due along with the monthly reports for the months of August and September 2018. As a result, Defendant owes \$46,183.61 in liability to the Trust Funds (e.g., not including liquidated damages, interest, or other assessments).

10.

Based upon the unpaid contributions owing to the Trust now due and owing from Defendant are liquidated damages delinquency charges to which plaintiff Trust Funds are entitled under the Collective Bargaining Agreements and plaintiffs Trust Fund Agreements and 29 USC § 1132(g)(2) in the sum of \$4,005.46.

11.

Based upon the unpaid contributions owing to the Trust Funds under 29 USC § 1132(g)(2) and the Collective Bargaining Agreements and Trust Fund Agreements, now due and

owing from Defendant is interest on the unpaid contributions at the rate of 12 percent per annum from the date contributions were due, until paid. Interest calculated through October 20, 2018 is in the sum of \$218.28 and continues to accrue.

12.

Plaintiffs complied with all conditions precedent to bringing this suit. Plaintiffs retained the undersigned attorneys to collect the monies that may be found due and owing from Defendant.

13.

Plaintiffs are entitled to enforcement of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Trust Agreements. Further, Plaintiffs are entitled to attorneys' fees and all collection costs incurred in addition to liquidated damages and interest on the unpaid contributions pursuant to the Trust Agreements and to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for Judgment against Defendant as follows:

1. That Defendant be ordered to submit contributions in the amount of \$46,183.61 for work performed in August and September 2018;
2. That Defendant be ordered to pay interest in the sum of \$218.28 through October 20, 2108, and thereafter at the rate of 12% per annum on the outstanding amount that is due pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Trust Agreements, and 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g);
3. That Defendant be ordered to pay liquidated damages in the sum of \$4,005.46 on the amount that is due pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Trust Agreements; and 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g);

4. That Defendant be ordered to pay all Plaintiffs' reasonable attorneys' fees and collection costs incurred by the Plaintiffs pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreements, the Trust Agreements, and 29 USC 1132(g) ; and
5. For such further relief as the Court deems equitable.

DATED this 26th day of October, 2018.

s/Linda J. Larkin

TALIA Y. STOESSEL, OSB No. 115271

stoesselt@bennethartman.com (email)

LINDA J. LARKIN, OSB No. 792954

larkinl@bennethartman.com (email)

Of Attorneys for Plaintiffs

503-227-4600 (telephone)